

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 750 without my signature.

Although my Administration conceptually supports the framework and intent of AB 750, the bill would include speech language pathologists as qualified rehabilitation professionals. Speech language pathologist's training focuses on communication disorders, not neuromuscular and musculoskeletal systems, which most custom durable medical equipment (DME) is designed to accommodate. Including this professional group as qualified rehabilitation professionals will prevent the Department of Health Services (DHS) from establishing stringent criteria in their upcoming contractual agreements because DHS' requirements cannot be more restrictive than law.

Because this measure, as written, would undermine DHS' efforts to contain inappropriate Medi-Cal expenditures, I am returning AB 750 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger